



**Testimony  
Bart Russell  
Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
Presented to Planning & Development Committee  
of the Connecticut General Assembly  
March 2, 2009**

**The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *strongly supports* Raised Bill No. 6469, AN ACT CONCERNING SMART GROWTH AND STATE PLANNING.**

In an ongoing effort to reduce municipal over-reliance on local property taxes to fund essential local services, including education, COST urges support for HB-6469, which requires the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis at the University of Connecticut to conduct a tax incidence study. The study will include an analysis of federal, state and local tax burdens of state taxpayers and assess how changes in local and state taxes would affect income levels.

The bill also calls for the Center to conduct a state-wide build-out analysis to develop strategies for land use and to manage conservation and growth. This information is absolutely critical to moving forward with effective smart growth initiatives.

COST urges your support for HB-6469.